



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management

## Modifying the Commercial Retention Limit For Blacknose Sharks and Non-Blacknose SCS in the Atlantic Region



Presentation to the SAFMC  
September 2016

# Outline

- Background
- Potential Alternatives
- Request for Comments



# Background

- 2007 Stock Assessment (SEDAR 13) – one stock; overfished/overfishing
- Amendment 3 Final Rule (June 1, 2010)
  - Established separate blacknose shark and non-blacknose SCS quotas, and linked the quotas
  - Encouraged all shark fishermen to avoid blacknose sharks
  - Stated that if fishermen continue to target blacknose sharks, NMFS would implement more management measures to ensure the rebuilding of the stock
- 2011 Stock Assessments (SEDAR 21) – two stocks; Atlantic: overfished/overfishing
- Amendment 5a Final Rule (July 3, 2013) – continued quota linkage
- Amendment 6 Final Rule (August 18, 2015)
  - Established management boundary at 34 N. lat.
  - Blacknose can only be landed south of that boundary
  - Quota linkage continues

# Current Issues

- Some fishermen have been landing large numbers of blacknose sharks
- Non-blacknose SCS fishery has closed early due to the quota linkage (e.g., September 2013, July 2014, June 2015, and May 2016)
- The non-blacknose SCS quota has been underutilized, as all SCS must be discarded once the fisheries are closed
- Blacknose shark quota exceeded in 2012 and 2015

These issues have resulted in comments from fishermen and a request from the SAFMC to address discards of non-blacknose SCS in the Spanish mackerel gillnet fishery

# Alternatives

- Alternative 1: No Action. Do not implement any new commercial retention limit for small coastal sharks in the Atlantic region south of 34°00'N. latitude. Do not adjust the blacknose shark baseline quota
  
- Alternative 2: Establish a commercial retention limit of non-blacknose SCS for shark directed limited access permit holders in the Atlantic region south of 34°00'N. latitude once the blacknose shark quota is reached and adjust the blacknose shark quota to account for dead discards
  - 3 Sub-alternatives with retention limit ranging from 50 to 250 non-blacknose SCS; resulting blacknose quota ranging from 15 to 6.1 mt dw, respectively
  
- Alternative 3: Establish a commercial retention limit for blacknose sharks for all Atlantic shark limited access permit holders in the Atlantic region south of 34°00'N. latitude
  - 3 Sub-alternatives with retention limit ranging from 50 to 8 blacknose sharks
  - **Preferred alternative = 8 blacknose sharks per trip**

# Timeline

- 1) Proposed rule published on August 3, 2016
- 2) Proposed rule public hearing/webinar in August 2016
- 3) Discussions at the HMS AP Meeting (Sept 7-8) and SAFMC (Sept 14-15)
- 4) Comment Period Ends – **September 20, 2016**
- 5) Target effective for 2017 commercial shark fishing season

# Request for Public Comments

Comment period closes on:

**September 20, 2016**

Please submit comments to:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

Keyword - "NOAA-NMFS-2016-0095"

**Comments can also be submitted via fax:** 301-713-1917, Attn: Guý DuBeck

**Or Mail:** NMFS SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

**Please identify comments with NOAA-NMFS-2016-0095**

For more information go to: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>

**Additional Questions?**

[guy.dubeck@noaa.gov](mailto:guy.dubeck@noaa.gov) or 301-427-8503

# Additional Questions or Comments?

Please share them with us!

Karyl Brewster-Geisz, Guý DuBeck, Larry Redd, or Cliff Hutt  
Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division  
301-427-8503



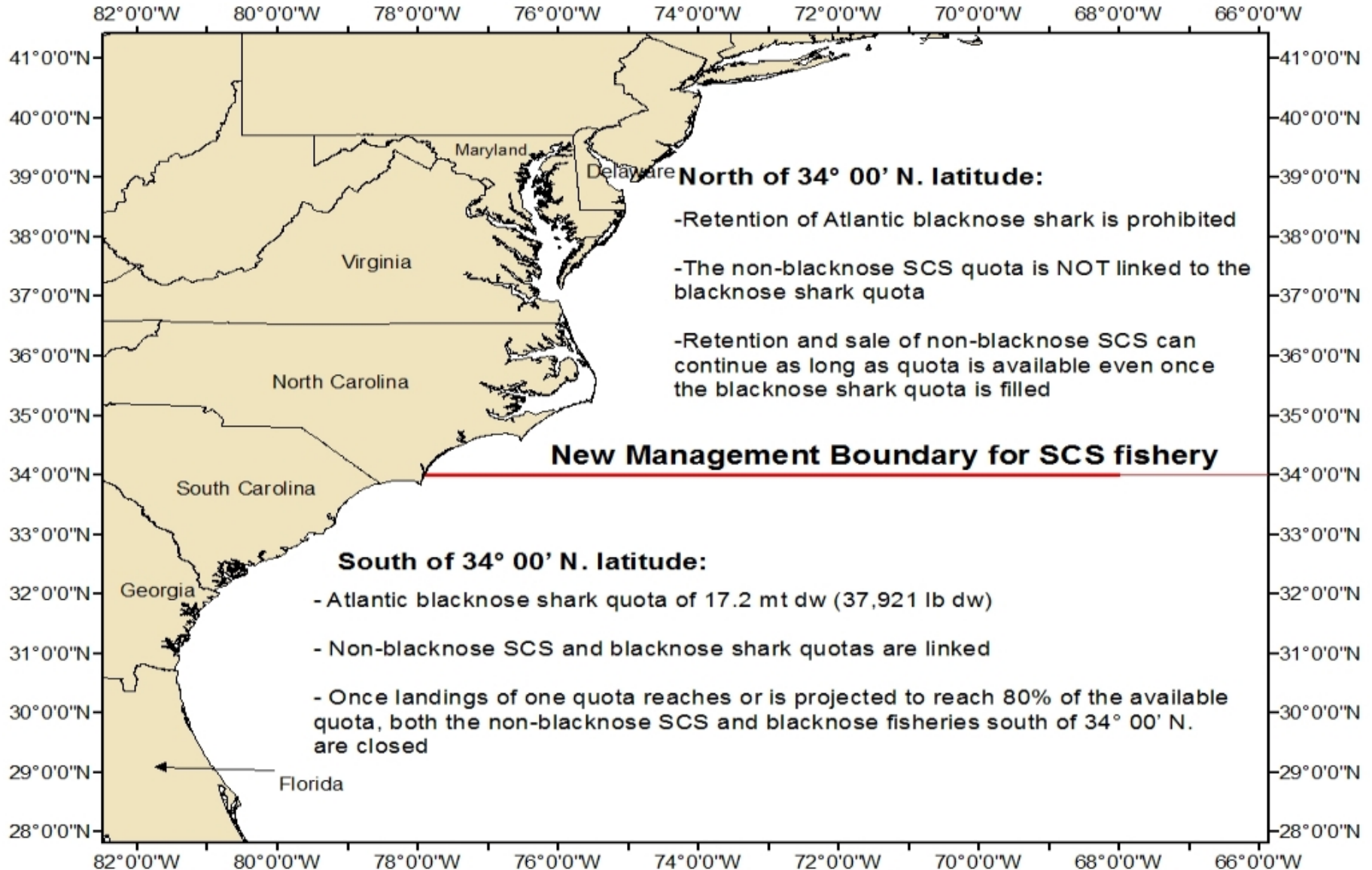


# Background slides

# Vessels with Directed and Incidental Permits Landing Blacknose Sharks

Year	Number of Vessels	Number of Trips	% Weight of Blacknose Landed per Trip (lb dw)			
			0-25	26-50	51-75	76+
2010	29	200	158	30	4	8
2011	23	139	114	11	5	9
2012	27	187	133	29	14	11
2013	24	203	166	27	7	3
2014	21	145	61	46	24	14
2015	20	91	45	7	8	31

# Amendment 6 (August 18, 2015)



# Number of trips per year for Atlantic blacknose sharks based on the average landings per trip

Year	(A) Average Weight of Blacknose Shark Landings per Trip (lb dw)	(B) Number of Trips per Year That Could Land the Blacknose Shark Quota (number) = 37,921/A
2010	140	271
2011	189	201
2012	161	236
2013	135	281
2014	243	156
2015	402	94
Average	212	207

# Alternative 2 in detail

Calculations of potential blacknose shark quotas needed to account for dead discards of blacknose sharks for various non-blacknose SCS commercial retention limits once the blacknose shark quota is reached.

Alternatives	(A) Non-Blacknose SCS Retention Limit	(B) Blacknose Shark Discards per Retention Limit ( $A / 3 = B$ ) <sup>1</sup>	(C) Blacknose Shark Discards ( $B \times 118 = C$ ) <sup>2</sup>	(D) Blacknose Shark Dead Discards ( $C \times 0.50 = D$ ) <sup>3</sup>	(E) Blacknose Shark Quota Adjustment ( $D \times 5\text{lb dw} = E$ ) <sup>4</sup>	(F) Blacknose Shark Quota Under the Different Alternatives ( $17.2\text{ mt dw} - E = F$ ) <sup>5</sup>
2a	50 sharks	16.7 sharks	1,971 sharks	986 sharks	2.2 mt dw (4,930 lb dw)	15.0 mt dw (33,069 lb dw)
2b	150 sharks	50 sharks	5,900 sharks	2,950 sharks	6.7 mt dw (14,750 lb dw)	10.5 mt dw (23,148 lb dw)
2c	250 sharks	83.3 sharks	9,829 sharks	4,915 sharks	11.1 mt dw (24,575 lb dw)	6.1 mt dw (13,448 lb dw)

<sup>1</sup> Column B: Catch composition of non-blacknose SCS to blacknose sharks is 3:1

<sup>2</sup> Column C: Average number of trips that landed sharks with gillnet gear was 118

<sup>3</sup> Column D: Dead discard rate for blacknose sharks is 50%

<sup>4</sup> Column E: Average weight of blacknose sharks with gillnet gear = 5 lb dw

<sup>5</sup> Column F: Atlantic blacknose shark baseline quota is 17.2 mt dw (37,921 lb dw).

# Alternative 3 in detail

Retention limits and number of trips per year for Atlantic blacknose sharks under the different potential alternatives.

Alternatives	(A) Retention Limit	(B) Average Weight of Blacknose Shark Landings per Trip (A x 5 lb dw = B ) <sup>1</sup>	(C) Number of Trips per Year That Could Land the Blacknose Shark Quota <sup>2</sup> (number) (37,921 / B = C)
3a	50	250 lb dw	113
3b	16	80 lb dw	354
3c	8	40 lb dw	707
Average (2010-2015)	-	212 lb dw	207

<sup>1</sup> Column B: Average weight of blacknose sharks with gillnet gear = 5 lb dw

<sup>2</sup> Assuming each trip lands the full retention limit